



**Barbara Tumperi was born in Louisville, Ky., and is a proud graduate of the University of Kentucky. She and her late husband, Bob, have three children who live across the Southeast. The Tumperis moved to Newnan in 1979 – the move was the 15th for them since Bob traveled first with the Army, then for various jobs. It was while living in Philadelphia that Tumperi developed an interest in antiques. One need only look to her Princess Anne Victorian home in Newnan’s Greenville-LaGrange historic district to see her appreciation for the past. Her antiques collection ranges from inherited period pieces – including her great grandmother’s clothing — to silhouettes, salesman sample furniture and old sheet music from as far back as the 1920s. In addition to antiquing, Tumperi keeps busy as a volunteer with Piedmont Newnan Hospital’s Auxiliary, where she’s served for 28 years.**

**(1)** If you’re looking for something, set a price in your mind. Then, if you find something you really love and it’s maybe \$50 more than you want to pay, the biggest mistake is saying, “I’m not going to pay that – I’ll get it down the road cheaper,” because you won’t. **(2)** When people are buying things, they should buy from a reputable dealer, and get as much about the provenance as possible. Make sure it’s not being manufactured down the street. **(3)** Some people buy antiques as an investment, and others acquire items they really like. I buy something because I like it. It won’t be put away in a box. I think you need to put them out and use them. **(4)** Antiques are to be enjoyed. They were once a part of someone’s home. That’s what I like – it’s not just about buying, it’s about reflecting on what people and that period in time were like when they used the item. **(5)** To me, antiques are a reflection of the past that create a sense of nostalgia – a yearning for a past that was or wasn’t there, or perhaps an escape from today’s complex, busy and sometimes superficial world. People once took pride in making their own furniture, clothing and food. Antiques remind me of the way I grew up. **(6)** There are things you may want to collect that you won’t be able to. You can’t spend time, money or effort looking for something that nine times out of 10 isn’t available – like, for me, Kate Greenaway and Tasha Tudor illustrations. **(7)** Sometimes you’ve got to travel to find the unusual pieces – and there are a lot in the New England area. You eventually come to learn that some places are more likely to carry certain things than others. The search is part of the fun, especially when you go looking for one item and find something else in the process. **(8)** You can do research on collectibles and antiques on the Internet, though, admittedly, I don’t know how. But, I would not buy antiques over the Internet. I would want to see it, examine it and turn it upside down. **(9)** It’s a good idea to get to know a dealer and let them know what you’re looking for. A dealer once called me with an unusual silhouette. I took the item to Chicago to an authority on antique papers who advised me to take it to a conservator. What are the chances I would have come across something where the dealer knew who the subject was, and the artist had written the background on a note still glued to the back of the piece? **(10)** I appreciate things that are well made and have a history, even if it’s a picture of my grandmother or thimbles that belonged to my family. I think of how many times I’ve moved, and I’m amazed that they’re still in pretty good condition. **NCM**



# Deck the Halls with Safety in Mind

- If you put up a live tree, buy one with fresh, green needles. If the greenery isn't fresh, it can lead to a greater fire risk. Keep the tree's base holder filled with water at all times – even if you have to water it more than once a day.
- Choose a spot for your tree that's at least three feet clear of fireplaces and other heat sources.
- String lights that have the Underwriters Laboratory mark. It means that engineers have tested samples of lights for risk of fire, electric shock and other hazards.
- Plug no more than three strands of lights together or into the same outlet. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using electrical decorations.
- Before you plug in last year's lights, inspect them for cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires and loose connections.
- If you have to replace a light bulb or fuse on a strand of lights, unplug it first.
- Replace faulty light strands and electrical decorations rather than trying to repair them.
- Keep lights and electrical decorations out of the reach of children and pets. They can cause a shock or fire if misused.
- Some lights are designed for indoor use only. Check yours before hanging them outdoors.
- Turn off decorations and lights before leaving the house or going to bed.

***Warmest Wishes for a Safe and Wonderful Holiday Season***



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